EDUCATION, IRELAND.

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1840.

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 8.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH VISCOUNT EBRINGTON, BARON FORTESCUE, LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

Acting upon the resolution, announced in our last Report to your Excellency, of having visitations held at the respective Royal Schools, we deputed two of the members of the Board to visit and inspect them, and in the course of the last year visitations were accordingly held at the Royal Schools of Cavan, Enniskillen, Dungannon, and Raphoe, without any notice of the time at which such visitation would be held having been previously given to the respective masters; no visitation took place at Armagh Royal School, in consequence of a severe domestic affliction having befallen the master at the time when the visitors were in that neighbourhood. The visitation of Banagher Royal School did not take place last summer; but we hope to have it inspected in the course of the current year.

Amongst the Royal Schools, that of Enniskillen continues to be the most numerously attended, and the most successful, with regard to the distinctions obtained by its pupils.

With regard to the other Royal Schools, no material alteration in the number of pupils in attendance or in the course of instruction, which is very extensive, has taken place since the date of our last Report to your Excellency; the schoolhouses have been, under our direction, maintained in a good and substantial state of repair by the expenditure of such sums as became necessary for that purpose; and a small grant has been made to increase the school library at Armagh.

At Banagher Royal School, to which a master was lately appointed by your Excellency, we have, on the suggestion, and at the recommendation of the master, taken a lease of a garden, adjoining the schoolhouse, and given the use thereof to the master, there having been heretofore no accommodation of that description.

At the Carysfort Royal School, which is solely attended by the poorer classes, and where the master derives no emolument whatever from the pupils, we have thought it right to make a small increase to the salary of the master lately appointed thereto by your Excellency.

Since the date of our last Report, we have elected as Queen's scholars in the University the following persons; viz.

From Armagh, James Pooler, to an exhibition of 30 *l.* for five years.

From Dungannon, Thomas Moore, 30 *l.* for five years.
George Patton, 30 *l.* for five years.

From Enniskillen, Edward Graves Mayne, 50 *l.* for five years.
William Irvine, 30 *l.* for five years.
George Baggot, 30 *l.* for four years.
Charles Ingham Black, promoted from 30 *l.* to 50 *l.* for one year.
Albert Hamilton, 30 *l.* for one year, vacant by Black's promotion.

 A considerable

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A considerable number of petitions from the tenantry on the Cavan and Enniskillen School estates, which, under the former system of management, had become crowded by a pauper-population, having been from time to time presented to us, and considerable arrears of rent having become due, particularly on the Enniskillen School estate, which, from its peculiar situation is liable to much fluctuation in value; and it having also been represented to us that very active measures must be taken with regard thereto; we have, with a view to improving the condition of these estates and of the tenantry residing thereon, given directions to a skilful land-surveyor to visit, minutely examine, and to value the respective farms on these estates, and to make to us a full and particular report of the actual value of the several holdings, and of the present circumstances of the respective tenants.

With respect to the Raphoe School Estate, of the lease of which there are but two years and a half unexpired, we regret to be obliged to state to your Excellency that it has been reported to us that there is a numerous and very mismanaged tenantry located thereon; that the arrears of rent due by the tenants to the master of the school, who is the lessee of the estate, are very great, and by him stated to be almost irrecoverable; and, with a view to do away with this state of things, we entered into a negociation with the master for a surrender of the remaining two years and a half of his lease; but in the progress of that negociation such difficulties arose, that after much correspondence on the subject, we were recommended by our legal adviser, notwithstanding our desire to ameliorate the state of the tenantry, to allow the lease to expire. After which period, the Board will appoint a resident agent, and make such general regulations, with regard to the tenantry residing on the estate, and the recovery of the rents, as may seem necessary.

The Clonmel School Estate, the lease of which having expired, and with regard to the new letting of which very great legal obstacles existed (which have now however been overcome), we have directed to be surveyed and valued; and, in the interim, we granted a tenure of the entire for one year to the principal tenant thereof.

We are happy to be able to report to your Excellency, that, under the efficient management of our agent on the Armagh School Estate, the tenantry exhibit a thriving and industrious appearance.

The active exertions of our agent on the Dungannon School Estate, in advancing, under our direction, small sums of money, to be repaid by the tenantry, and also in giving grants of seeds; together with the facility afforded by the moveable railroad belonging to the Board for reclaiming waste and boggy portions of the land, have been, as he has reported to us, productive of the most satisfactory results; and an improved style of agriculture and farm management has been generally introduced on this estate, which formerly was most unproductive.

The Schools of Private Endowment, by the annual returns forwarded to us from the respective masters, show an improved course of general education, and an increased number of children in attendance.

Representations having been made to us by the usher of Ballyroan School, highly prejudicial to the character of the master, we, pursuant to the powers vested in us by Act of Parliament, having first notified our intention to the patrons of the school, executed a deputation to visitors to proceed to the school-house, and there to hold a visitation and inquiry into the charges preferred, and the general management and conduct of the school; and the visitors having laid before us their report, together with a copy of the evidence on oath, on which that report is founded, we, in consequence of the usher's having failed to prove those charges, and his conduct having been, in the course of the investigation, discovered to be highly reprehensible, felt ourselves compelled to dismiss the usher, and, at the same time, to admonish the master to be, in future, more attentive to the discharge of his duties. We also called upon the patrons to appoint another usher, which they have accordingly done.

In the case of Lifford School (one also of private endowment), and in regard to complaints against which reference was made in our last Report to your Excellency, we, as in the case of Ballyroan, sent down visitors to take evidence on oath at the school-house, and to report thereon to us; and their report, together with a copy of the evidence taken, having been laid before us, and it appearing that the master had been extremely negligent of his duty as master of the school, and he having, at the same time, expressed his intention to conform to any regulations laid down for his future government by this Board, we prescribed such regulations for the conduct of the school as seemed to us fit; and the result has been, that, after much correspondence on the subject, he has intimated to us his intention of resigning his situation as master of Lifford School in the

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the month of May. We have accordingly adjourned the visitation of the school till after the period so named by him for his resignation.

With respect to a private endowment in the town of Eyrecourt, where a school had ceased to exist, and the schoolhouse long become ruinous, we are exerting ourselves, with the assistance of the rector of the parish, to have the school re-opened, and the intentions of the founders carried into effect.

The master of the Diocesan School of Down and Dromore, who was lately appointed by your Excellency to that situation (vacated by his predecessor, in consequence of a visitation about to be held by us there), has, since our last Report, entered into possession of the schoolhouse; and we have been enabled to grant to him, for the fitting up of the school, a small sum of money remaining in our hands after the erection of the schoolhouse.

And we have to state to your Excellency, that since our last Report, we have, in the case of Clonmel School, paid to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland a sum of 240 *l.*; and in the case of Raphoe Royal School, a sum of 77*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the regular annual instalments payable for sums of money advanced by the Treasury for these schools respectively.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
RD DUBLIN.
CHARLES MEATH.
CHARLES KILDARE.
FRANC. SADLEIR, Provost.
FITZGERALD AND VESCI.
L. PERRIN.
C. R. ELRINGTON.
J. WILSON.
JOHN RADCLIFF.

William Cotter Kyle, LL.D., M.R.I.A.
Secretary.

8, Clare-street, 23 April 1841.

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